

Submitter: John Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I oppose Senate Bill 210, which requires in-person voting with a picture ID. SB 210 is clearly intended to depress voter turnout. Our vote-by-mail system is one reason Oregon has a relatively high voter turnout, and it is a model for the nation. SB 210 would be a step backwards for democratic participation.

This Senate Bill is a perfect example of the strategy that conservatives wish to employ in order to slide our state and this country into total and absolute fascism. Conservatives pretend that this bill is solving a problem (in this case - widespread voter fraud). Conservatives ignore any and all evidence that counters their claim (for example, voting fraud is already prosecuted and taken seriously under our current system). There has never been a meaningful statistical chance of previous voter fraud examples that would have or could have changed the outcome of an election. The fact that we know when people commit voter fraud and that those people are prosecuted proves that this system is working. What conservatives are trying to do with this bill, is use the insignificant examples of actual voter fraud as a justification for this bill for the purposes of depressing voter turnout.

Conservatives need to make it for harder for people to vote. Why? Because when more people vote, conservatives lose. Not because of voter fraud but because the majority of people in this country and this state do not subscribe to conservative ideologies or beliefs. The republican party is politically and morally bankrupt of ideas and policies that aim to actually help and improve the lives of Americans. They have no positive vision for the future, they are actively engaged in gutting the most popular social program in this country, as we speak. In order for the Republican party to exist, they have to obfuscate facts, lie to Americans, and depress voter turn out in order to win elections. They have absolutely nothing to offer Americans, other than the collapse of the American project and the federal and local state governments. Republicans are frothing at the mouth, wishing to see the collapse of our government and way of life because it furthers their own ambitions and motivations for turning this country into a theocracy and a Christian Nationalist State.

If conservatives were actually concerned about voter fraud, then they would be making it easier for people to get registered to vote and by making it free-of-charge for everyone in the state and country to receive free identification. The state would also provide free transportation services to everyone that seeks identification services. But conservatives don't care about identification and providing the ability for everyone to receive identification in an easy, free, and seamless manner. They don't even care about voter fraud.

Pointing out this hypocrisy of conservatives is a complete waste of time because conservatives don't care about being hypocrites. They have no real values beyond their religious beliefs, and everything that they do in government flows from that entry point. If the ends justify the means, then "by any means necessary" will be their rallying cry.

The real problem we are facing is that conservatives do not care about democracy. They do not care about Oregonians, or Americans. They only care about their religion and imposing their way of life and their beliefs onto everyone. They do not want the people of this state or this country to have a choice or a say in the democratic process in our country, our state, or our workplaces. They think that they should speak for everyone, and this bill is just the beginning of enacting their will over the people of Oregon.